

Application No. 09/998,092  
Response to March 12, 2004 Office action

#6  
4/9/04  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application Serial No. .... 09/998,092  
Filing Date ..... 11/30/2001  
Inventorship ..... Liu et al.  
Applicant ..... Microsoft Corporation  
Group Art Unit ..... 2177  
Examiner ..... Rayyan, Susan F.  
Attorney's Docket No. .... MS1-933US  
Title: A Media Agent

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**RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED**  
**MARCH 12, 2004**

To: Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

From: Brian G. Hart (Tel. 303-539-0265 x 241; Fax 303-539-0270)  
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**Claim Restriction Under 35 USC §121**

Claims 1-86 were originally pending. Claims 1-86 stand restricted under 35 U.S.C. §121 as containing three patentably distinct inventions. In particular, the Office action ("Action") asserts that the following claim groupings represent three distinct or independent inventions as follows:

- Group I, Claims 1-9, 24-32, and 46-54 drawn to query augmenting and refining (e.g., inexact access), classified in class 707, subclass 5.
- Group II, Claims 10-23, 33-45, and 55-71 drawn to database schema or data structure, classified in Class 707, subclass 100.
- Group III, Claims 72-86 drawn to distributed or remote access, classified in Class 707, subclass 10.

In view of this restriction requirement, claims 10-23, 33-45, 55-71, and 72-86 are withdrawn from consideration under 35 USC §1.142(b), as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. Claims 1-9, 24-32, and 46-54 are elected for continued examination. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 24-32, and 46-54 remain pending.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 4/5/04By: 

Brian G. Hart

Reg. No. 44, 421

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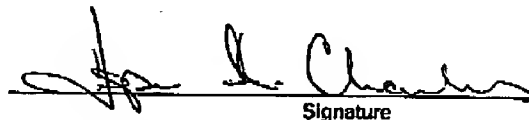
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